

Mountain Ash  
Urban District Council



# ANNUAL REPORT



of the  
Medical Officer of Health

1952



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MOUNTAIN ASH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
THIRTY-FIRST DECEMBER  
ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED & FIFTY-TWO

BY

J. LL. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (LOND.)

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# CONTENTS

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	PAGE
BIRTHS                    ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	5
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION                    ...	20
DEATHS (ALL AGES)                    ...                    ...                    ...	7
FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK & DAIRIES) ACT, 1944                    ..	27
FOOD HYGIENE CAMPAIGN ...                    ...                    ...	23
ICE CREAM REGULATIONS, 1947                    ...                    ...                    ...	23
LABORATORY WORK                    ...                    ...                    ..	20
MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, INSPECTION OF                    ...                    ..	28
MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ACT, 1949                    ...                    ...	27
MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949                    ...	27
MORTALITY, INFANT                    ...                    ...                    ..	6
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES                    ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	12
PET ANIMALS ACT                    ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	29
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE                    ...                    ...                    ...	3
REPORT ON TUBERCULOSIS ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	15
RODENT CONTROL                    ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	30
SANITARY INSPECTORS, SUMMARY OF WORK ...                    ...	25
STATISTICS, GENERAL                    ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	4
STATISTICS, EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL                    ...                    ...	5
STILL BIRTHS                    ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	7
WATER SUPPLY                    ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	21
TABLES : DEATHS                    ...                    ...                    ...                    ...	8-9
,,        INFANT MORTALITY                    ...                    ...                    ...	10-11
,,        NOTIFIED CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS                    ...	16-17
,,        HOSPITAL AND SANITORIA CASES                    ...	18-19

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

DAY OF MEETING :

Second TUESDAY in each month at 5.15 p.m.

*Chairman :*

Councillor W. I. JONES

*Members :*

Councillor Miss M. GEORGE	Councillor A. H. MAGGS
Councillor W. M. REES	Councillor J. LEWIS
Councillor A. S. J. HILLIER	Councillor E. C. MEREDITH
Councillor Mrs. M. BATH	Councillor S. WRIGHT
Councillor Mrs. L. WATTS	Councillor E. A. BENNETT
Councillor A. MORGAN	Councillor S. BLAKE
Councillor H. J. BOYCE	Councillor R. V. NELMS
Councillor E. FROWEN	Councillor W. MORGAN
Councillor G. E. WILLIAMS	Councillor Mrs. M. LEWIS

### **Staff of Public Health Department**

*Medical Officer of Health* .....J. LL. WILLIAMS,  
(*part time*) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Lond.)

*Senior Sanitary Inspector*.....W. J. WATTERS

*Sanitary Inspectors*.....G. M. JAMES  
W. C. GRIFFITHS

*Clerk*.....H. J. THOMAS

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MOUNTAIN ASH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Medical Officer of Health's  
Annual Report

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
OXFORD STREET,  
MOUNTAIN ASH,

August, 1953

*To the Chairman and Members of the Mountain Ash  
Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary conditions of the District, and of the Work carried out by your Officers of the Public Health Department.

The Tables of Vital Statistics for the year 1952 are included in this Report.

**GENERAL STATISTICS.**

Area of the District (in acres) ...	...	...	10,504
Population ...	...	...	31,200
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to the Rate Books ...	...	...	8,411
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£108,100
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	...	£397



## EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			Total.	Male.	Female
Live Births :	Legitimate ...	...	557	275	282
	Illegitimate ...	...	13	8	5
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the resident population	...	...	18.27		
Still-Births :	Legitimate ...	...	15	5	10
	Illegitimate ...	...	1	1	—
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births registered	...	...	27.3		
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated average population	...	...	12.21		
Deaths	...	...	381	209	172
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) :—					
			Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.	
No. 30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—		—

### BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered in the district during the year was 570. The number of males was 283, and females 287. This gives a Birth Rate of 18.27 per 1,000 inhabitants on a population of 31,200 (Registrar General).

The Birth-rate for the year is 2.97 higher than the rate for England and Wales, 1.37 higher than the rate for the County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 2.77 higher than the rate for towns ranging 25,000 to 50,000 inhabitants (Mountain Ash is placed in this group) at the census taken in 1931. The Birth-rate is 0.7 higher than last year.

The number of illegitimate children registered was 14. This is equivalent to an illegitimate rate of 23.8 per 1,000 births registered.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of Deaths of infants under one year of age registered in the district during the year was 29, 14 males and 15 females. This gives an infantile death-rate of 50.88 per 1,000 live births registered, and 0.9 per 1,000 of the inhabitants of the area.

The infantile death-rate of 50.88 per 1,000 births registered is 9.14 higher than for 1951.

The neo-natal mortality rate (the number of deaths during the first month of life) was 24.56 per 1,000 births, and is 48.2 per cent. of the infantile death-rate.

I append a table showing the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, and the infantile death-rate per 1,000 births, for the past ten years. Also, a table comparing the Infant Mortality and Neo-Natal Mortality for the Mountain Ash Urban Area with other areas for 1952 :—

<i>Year</i>	<b>1943</b>	<b>1944</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>1946</b>	<b>1947</b>
Number of Deaths ... ..	27	33	35	32	48
Death-rate per 1,000 births ...	46.4	51.9	57.0	50.0	73.0
<i>Year</i>	<b>1948</b>	<b>1949</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>1952</b>
Number of Deaths ... ..	30	25	25	23	29
Death-rate per 1,000 births ...	46.0	46.0	48.64	41.74	50.88





**INFANT MORTALITY.—Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.**

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Under 1 week</i>	<i>1-2 weeks</i>	<i>2-3 weeks</i>	<i>3-4 weeks</i>	<i>Total under 4 weeks</i>	<i>1-3 4 weeks and under 3 months</i>	<i>3-6 3 months and under 6 months</i>	<i>6-9 6 months and under 9 months</i>	<i>9-12 9 months and under 12 months</i>	<i>Total Deaths under 1 year</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other T.B. Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia all forms	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	5
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gastritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, Accidental	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1	1	3	2	1	—	—	6
Premature Birth ...	9	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Causes ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	3
Ill-Defined Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> ...	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>29</b>



**INFANT MORTALITY.—Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.**

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Under 1 week</i>	<i>1-2 weeks</i>	<i>2-3 weeks</i>	<i>3-4 weeks</i>	<i>Total under 4 weeks</i>	<i>1-3 4 weeks and under 3 months</i>	<i>3-6 3 months and under 6 months</i>	<i>6-9 6 months and under 9 months</i>	<i>9-12 9 months and under 12 months</i>	<i>Total Deaths under 1 year</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other T.B. Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia all forms	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	5
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gastritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, Accidental	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1	1	3	2	1	—	—	6
Premature Birth ...	9	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Causes ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	3
Ill-Defined Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> ...	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>29</b>

Source.	INFANT MORTALITY.		NEO-NATAL MORTALTY	
	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Deaths under four weeks.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
England and Wales ...	—	27.60	—	18.90
Glamorgan County ...	407	34.38	247	20.86
Urban Districts ...	314	35.84	191	21.80
Rural Districts ...	93	30.20	56	18.19
MOUNTAIN ASH ...	29	50.88	14	24.56

Other Glamorgan Districts :—

Aberdare ...	...	21	36.78	13	22.77
Barry ...	...	24	33.47	13	18.13
Bridgend ...	...	4	18.10	4	19.10
Caerphilly ...	...	30	41.84	17	23.71
Ogmore & Garw ...	...	26	65.82	16	40.51
Llantrisant Rural ...	...	28	53.95	20	38.54
Pontypridd ...	...	15	26.55	6	10.62
Rhondda ...	...	68	39.72	43	25.12

### STILL BIRTHS.

The number of still-births registered during the year was 16, and is 2.7 per cent. of the total number of births registered.

### DEATHS (All Ages).

The number of deaths in the district during the year was 381. This gives a death-rate of 12.21 per 1,000 upon an estimated population of 31,200.

The causes of death in the various age groups were as set out in the following tables. It will be noted from the Infant Mortality Table that the greatest single cause of death is Premature Birth.



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Mountain Ash Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report

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Notifiable Diseases

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The following tables shew the age and ward distribution of the cases of infectious diseases notified during the year under review :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Number of Cases recorded on Form 118e (cor- rected figures)</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever ... ..	35	34	10	—
Diphtheria ... ..	6	5	6	—
Pneumonia ... ..	51	49	1	20
Measles ... ..	476	476	1	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	28	28	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	3	3	3	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	4	4	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	4	3	4	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	2	2	—
Tuberculosis :—				
(a) Pulmonary { Males ...	31	—	12	11
{ Females ...	28	—	18	5
{ Total ...	59	—	30	16
(b) Non- { Males ...	4	—	3	—
Pulmonary { Females ...	2	—	1	—
{ Total ...	6	—	4	—

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1952. Analysis of the Total Cases in Age Groups.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 to 2 years</i>	<i>2 to 3 years</i>	<i>3 to 4 years</i>	<i>4 to 5 years</i>	<i>5 to 10 years</i>	<i>10 to 15 years</i>	<i>15 to 20 years</i>	<i>20 to 35 years</i>	<i>35 to 45 years</i>	<i>45 to 65 years</i>	<i>65 yrs. &amp; over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever ...	1	2	4	4	7	12	2	2	1	—	—	—	35
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	6
Measles ...	22	40	60	69	121	159	2	—	3	—	—	—	476
Whooping Cough ...	2	4	3	6	5	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	28
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	4
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	4
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia ...	4	5	1	2	2	8	—	3	7	5	9	5	51
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>609</b>

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1952. Number of Cases notified in each Ward.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Duffryn</i>	<i>Darwan- las</i>	<i>Miskin</i>	<i>Penrhiw ceiber</i>	<i>Aber- cynon</i>	<i>Ynysy- bwl</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>No. of Cases removed to Hospital.</i>
Scarlet Fever ...	4	2	5	15	9	—	35	10
Diphtheria ...	2	—	2	—	2	—	6	6
Pneumonia ...	—	4	9	38	—	—	51	7
Measles ...	42	62	110	137	64	61	476	1
Whooping Cough ...	1	4	6	14	3	—	28	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	3
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	1	2	1	—	4	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	2	—	2	4	4
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>33</b>



## Cases Admitted, Treated and Discharged from various Sanatoria and Hospitals during 1952.

Name of Institution	W A R D S													
	MALES.							FEMALES.						
	Duffryn	Darranlas	Miskin	Penrhiw- ceiber	Aber- cynon	Ynysybwl	Total	Duffryn	Darranlas	Miskin	Penrhiw- ceiber	Aber- cynon	Ynysybwl	Total
Glan Ely Hospital .. .. .	—	—	3	4	—	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Mardy Isolation Hospital .. ..	2	2	2	9	2	—	17	4	1	—	3	2	—	10
Pontsarn Hospital .. .. .	1	—	4	5	—	—	10	2	2	5	4	7	—	20
Sully Hospital .. .. .	1	3	2	—	2	—	8	—	—	—	1	1	1	3
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth ..	1	—	—	3	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
City Isolation Hospital, Cardiff ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	4
Tyntyla Hospital, Ystrad .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Highland Moors Hospital .. ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	5	5	11	22	4	3	50	7	4	5	9	13	4	42





## Pulmonary and other Cases of Tuberculosis Notified by Medical Practitioners during 1952

Ages		W A R D S														TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY	
		MALES							FEMALES								
		Duffryn	Darranlas	Miskin	Penrhiw- ceiber	Aber- cynon	Ynysybwl	Total	Duffryn	Darranlas	Miskin	Penrhiw- ceiber	Aber- cynon	Ynysybwl	Total	Males	Females
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1 to 5 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
	5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
	10 to 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	15 to 20 years	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	1	—	—	2	2	5	—	—	
	20 to 25 years	—	1	1	1	—	—	3	2	2	—	3	—	8	—	—	
	25 to 35 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	5	1	8	1	2	
	35 to 45 years	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	1	1	1	4	—	—	
	45 to 55 years	1	1	3	3	—	—	8	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	
	55 to 65 years	—	—	1	2	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	
65 years and over	1	1	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—		
TOTAL		5	5	5	9	3	4	31	4	3	2	11	4	4	28	11	5
OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	10 to 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	15 to 20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	20 to 25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	
	25 to 35 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	35 to 45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
	45 to 55 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	55 to 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
TOTAL		—	—	1	—	1	2	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death-Rate per 1,000 population for 1952 was 0.51.

The following table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis in the district for the past ten years :—

CASES NOTIFIED.			DEATHS.	
Year.	Pulmonary.	Other Forms.	Pulmonary.	Other Forms.
1943	... 50	10	30	3
1944	... 70	16	21	4
1945	... 63	7	22	4
1946	... 60	8	22	5
1947	... 48	5	20	6
1948	... 49	10	20	2
1949	... 34	6	18	—
1950	... 44	7	18	6
1951	... 54	6	14	1
1952	... 59	6	16	—

I append Tables showing the Age and Ward Distribution of all cases notified and the number treated at the various sanatoria :—

# Laboratory Work

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## CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

As in previous years, arrangements have been made with the Glamorgan County Council for the chemical and, bacteriological examination of specimens from this area at the Public Health Laboratory Service, The Parade Cardiff.

Medical Practitioners in the district have been informed that outfits (excluding Sputum outfits) for the collection and transmission of specimens, can be obtained from the Public Health Department, Oxford Street, Mountain Ash.

The following table shows the nature and number of specimens sent for examination, and the results :—

DISEASE SUSPECTED.	Number of Specimens.	Results.	
		Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria : —			
Throat Swab   ...   1		—	1
Tuberculosis :—			
Sputum   ...   ...   2		—	2
Food Poisoning :—			
Fish Cakes   ...   1		—	1
Cream Cakes   ...   3		—	3
Boiled Fish and Potato ...   ...   2		—	2
Para-Typhoid Fever :—			
Blood   ...   ...   3		—	3
Faeces   ...   ...   1		—	1

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is under the control of the Council, and, during the year there was a plentiful and continuous supply. All the houses in the area have a piped supply of water from the Council's mains, apart from the outlying farms and premises. In addition, the Trading Estates at Hirwaun and Ynysboeth are supplied. The sources, gathering grounds and reservoirs, apart from the Penderyn Reservoir in Brecknockshire, are within the Mountain Ash Urban Area and, the capacity of the reservoirs is as follows :

Penderyn Reservoir	...	132,000,000	gallons
Clydach Reservoir	...	11,550,000	„
Darranlas Reservoir	...	3,500,000	„
Perthcelyn Reservoir	...	30,000,000	„
Buarth y Capel Reservoir		500,000	„
Gilfach Reservoir	...	60,000	„
Cefnpennar Reservoir	...	23,000	„

In addition to the above reservoirs, there is an intake at Rhydygwreiddyn, Llanwonno, which is used occasionally

The source of each supply is of an upland surface type, and tends to be soft in character. One supply of water, namely, the Darranlas Reservoir, which serves the main part of the town of Mountain Ash, is treated by sand filtration, and chlorination, but the other sources are chlorinated only.

The water (raw and treated) from the sources in general use were sampled once monthly and, on occasions, more frequently. Those sources not in general use were sampled when that water was used.

336 samples (168 Chemical and 168 Bacteriological) were taken and submitted to the Analyst at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, for examination.

The following table gives a summarised report of the Analyst on the bacteriological examinations :—



	Number	Satis- factory	Suspi- cious	Unsatis- factory
CLYDACH :				
Raw ... ..	17	5	9	3
Treated ... ..	31	27	4	—
DARRANLAS :				
Raw ... ..	16	2	6	8
Treated ... ..	16	14	1	1
PERTHCELYN :				
Raw ... ..	12	3	5	4
Treated ... ..	12	12	—	—
PENDERYN :				
Raw ... ..	15	4	3	8
Treated ... ..	32	14	3	15
RHYDYGWREIDDYN :				
Raw ... ..	11	8	3	—
STREAM ADJACENT TO RHYDYGWREIDDYN :				
Raw ... ..	4	1	1	2
BUARTH-Y-CAPEL :				
Raw ... ..	2	1	1	—
TOTAL ... ..	168	91	36	41

No special action, apart from the usual precautions for the safety of the water, was taken.

#### PLUMBO SOLVENCY.

The whole of the sources are soft, and there is, therefore, a danger of action on lead. All supplies are treated with chalk to eliminate this danger.

#### GWENIFOR SWIMMING BATHS.

16 samples (8 chemical and 8 bacteriological) were taken during the year and proved to be satisfactory on examination ; Routine treatment of the water with Copper Sulphate was carried out to obviate the growth of algae.

#### PADDLING POOL, ABERCYNON.

16 samples (8 chemical and 8 bacteriological) were taken during the year. 4 samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

# Food Hygiene Campaign

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## THE ICE CREAM (Heat Treatment, etc.) REGULATIONS 1947.

All premises where Ice Cream is manufactured and sold have been inspected frequently, and comply with the above Regulations and have, in my opinion, obtained a very creditable standard of hygiene.

I am pleased to say that all vehicles used in the retail sale of Ice Cream conform to the high standard approved by the Council.

35 samples of Ice Cream were taken and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, with the following results :—

Provisional Grade 1 (Satisfactory).	Provisional Grade 2 (Fair).	Provisional Grade 3 (Un- satisfactory).	Provisional Grade 4 (Very Un- satisfactory).
23	10	—	2

An additional 10 samples were taken, but owing to difficulties at the laboratory, no results were given for these.

**Food Poisoning Outbreaks.**

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms of other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
1	4	Nil	Not known	Not known

J. LL. WILLIAMS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

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MOUNTAIN ASH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# Summary of Work done by the Sanitary Inspectors

Houses and premises inspected and re-visited      ...      ...      3,426

Number of Notices served under Section 93, Public  
Health Act, 1936 :—

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	533
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	301

**General Repairs—**

Chimneys and fireplaces	...	...	...	...	...	224
Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	327
Eavesgutters and downpipes	...	...	...	...	...	296
External walls	...	...	...	...	...	82
Windows and doors	...	...	...	...	...	192
Internal walls, partitions and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	208
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	78
Internal staircases	...	...	...	...	...	19
Cupboards and skirtings	...	...	...	...	...	69
Sculleries and pantries	...	...	...	...	...	64
Yard pavements and steps	...	...	...	...	...	114
Dry Areas provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wash houses and coal houses	...	...	...	...	...	25
Boundary and forecourt walls	...	...	...	...	...	58
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fowl cots removed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Repairs to water services	...	...	...	...	...	51

**Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936—**

Number of Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	39
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**Drainage—**

Cleansed, repaired and relaid	...	...	...	...	127
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	169
Wash up sinks provided and repaired	...	...	...	...	20

**Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936—**

Number of Notices served	...	...	...	...	148
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**Sanitary Conveniences—**

General repairs	...	...	...	...	191
Water flushing apparatus repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	77
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	1

**Legal Proceedings—**

During the year two summonses under Section 93 and two under Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were taken for non-abatement of nuisances.

Court Orders to complete the work within four and six weeks respectively were issued for the Section 93 summonses.

A fine of £1 was imposed for each of the summonses under Section 45.

**Factory Act, 1947—**

Number of bakehouses on register	...	...	...	12
Number of factories on register	...	...	...	101
Number of visits	...	...	...	283
Number of Notices	...	...	...	8
Number of outworkers	...	...	...	10

**Fish Fryers—**

Number in district	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	93

**Infectious Diseases—**

Number of cases visited	54
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**Disinfection—**

Number of houses fumigated after infectious disease ...	64
Number of dirty or verminous houses sprayed or fumigated ... ..	21

**Licensed Premises—**

An investigation into the Hygienic and Sanitary conditions of all Licensed premises was commenced during the year.

In carrying out the investigation, attention was primarily directed to the following :—

- (a) Facilities for the washing and sterilising of receptacles (glasses, pots and tankards, etc.)
- (b) Sanitary accommodation (with regard to the number and separation of sexes).
- (c) General Cleanliness of premises, bars, fittings and apparatus
- (d) Risk of lead poisoning from the use of beer-raising apparatus.
- (e) Condition of living quarters of occupier.
- (f) Facilities for the provision of meals.

Great improvements have been effected in the premises already visited, and, in each case, the Brewery Company concerned have shewn every co-operation with your Sanitary Inspectors



## **FOOD AND DRUGS (Milk and Dairies) ACT, 1944.**

### **The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

Powers of supervision of the retail distribution and sampling of milk for bacteriological examination are vested in the Local Authority :—

Number of Distributors on Register...	21
Number of Dairies in Area ... ..	17
Number of Visits ... ..	94
Number of Notices served ... ..	2

67 samples of milk were taken during the year and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and chemical tests.

11 samples were found to be unsatisfactory. In these instances, copies of the analyst's reports were sent to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

18 samples were submitted for examination for Tubercle Bacilli and found to be satisfactory.

## **MILK (Special Designation) ACT, 1949.**

### **Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

No dealers' licences issued.

## **MILK (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) REGULATIONS, 1949**

14 dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised," and 11 licences for the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasterurised) " were issued to distributors of milk in this area.

1 dealer's licence was issued for the use of the Special Designation " Sterilised."

2 Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" and 2 Supplementary licences for the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)" were issued to distributors of milk in this area.

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

6 licences to act as slaughtermen were issued during the year.

Notices of intended slaughtering of 55 cottagers' pigs were received by the Public Health Department, and the carcasses were inspected by the sanitary inspectors.

### Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ... ..	—	—	—	—	Not known
Number inspected ... ..	—	—	—	—	55
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	3.64

A total of 1 ton, 16 cwts., 11 lbs., of foodstuffs was found on examination to be unfit for human consumption voluntarily surrendered and destroyed :—

					Weight in lbs.
Pork ...	...	...	...	...	70
† Home-killed Beef	...	...	...	...	483
* Bacon	...	...	...	...	12
Meat Products	...	...	...	...	10
Sausages	...	...	...	...	7
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	...	115
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	69
Tinned Goods	...	...	...	...	3060
Suet ...	...	...	...	...	91
Cereals	...	...	...	...	13
* Butter	...	...	...	...	3
* Cheese	...	...	...	...	15
Cake Mixture	...	...	...	...	48
Sugar	...	...	...	...	20
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	27

\* Returned to Ministry of Food agents through trade channels.

† Returned to Wholesale Meat Suppliers Association.

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.**

### **RAG, FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

The above mentioned Acts came into operation during the year, and the Council designated the Sanitary Inspectors as Authorised Officers.

All premises suitable for registration were visited with a view to enforcing the provisions of the above Acts.

## RODENT CONTROL.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year work on the destruction of rats was continued. Private dwellings were treated free of costs, and 50 per cent. of the costs incurred were recovered from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

No grant is made by the Ministry in respect of business or commercial premises, and all the expenditure incurred has to be recovered from the owners or occupiers of these premises.

Two full time Rodent Operatives are employed by the Council, and details of the work carried out by them, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors, are as follows :—

Number of Notices served :—

(1) for treatment	...	...	13
(2) for structural work	...	...	1

Number of premises visited      ...      ...      2,421

		Rats.	Mice.
Number of dwelling houses treated	...	171	143
„ business premises treated	...	14	8
„ canteens treated	...	1	2
„ refuse tips treated	...	6	
„ embankments treated	...	7	
„ watercourses treated...	...	12	
„ piggeries treated	...	5	
„ sewer beds treated	...	7	
„ back lanes treated	...	3	
„ culverts treated	...	5	
„ river embankments treated...		29	
„ railway embankments treated		2	



## BLOCK TREATMENTS :—

The following block treatments were carried out during the year :—

- (a) Sewage Disposal Works, railway embankments, river embankments, refuse tips, piggeries, private dwellings and sewer manholes in Carnetown, Abercynon. The estimated kill was 1,685.
- (b) Empress Ballroom, business premises, drains, sewers and manholes in Margaret Street, Abercynon, with an estimated kill of 180.
- (c) Empress Ballroom, 8, 10, 14, and 24 Margaret Street, 6, 12 and 22 Margaret Street, footpath, sewer manholes, and river embankments—estimated kill, 223.
- (d) Both embankments of the River Cynon from the boundary with Aberdare to Abercynon, and both embankments of the River Taff from Abercynon to the boundary with Pontypridd. The estimated kill was 2,957 rats.

The estimated kill of rats throughout the area, excluding the sewers, for the year, was as follows :—

Mountain Ash	...	...	2,531
Penrhiwceiber	...	...	1,869
Abercynon	...	...	4,866
Ynysybwl	...	...	2,558
Total	...	...	<u>11,824</u>

All estimated kills are worked out in accordance with the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

## SEWER TREATMENT :—

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers throughout the area, comprising 670 manholes, were carried out, one from 9th June to 2nd July, 1952, and the other from 24th November to 20th December, 1952.



346 manholes showed a pre-bait take and 20 manholes showed complete pre-bait take on one or both of the days during the first treatment, whereas the figures for the second treatment were 257 and 23 respectively. As there is no check on the poison take in sewers, it is impossible to work out an estimated kill.

The treatments were carried out by the Rodent Operatives, assisted by two men obtained from the Surveyor's Department.

All sewer beds and refuse tips were treated at the same time as the sewers. These treatments were carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The bait used in the first treatment was Sausage Rusk and the poison Zinc Phosphide, and, for the second treatment, the bait was Bread Mash and the poison Arsenious Oxide.

The nature and development of the Mountain Ash Urban Area and the close proximity of the dwelling houses, etc., to the river makes rodent infestation and reinfestation inevitable, and will necessitate constant survey, treatment and supervision.

W. J. WATTERS,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*



